

THE EVENING STAR.

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CROSBY S. NOYES.....Editor

THE STAR has a regular and permanent Family Circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

In order to avoid delays on account of personal absence, letters to THE STAR should not be addressed to any individual connected with the office, but simply to THE STAR, or to the Editorial or Business Departments, according to tenor or purpose.

Watching Washington's Development

Discussing the concentrated effort which is being made at this time to secure certain legislation for the District affecting the sanitary conditions at the capital, notably in the direction of housing reform, the Philadelphia Press says:

The Washington story is a part of a new impulse which is manifest in regard to the housing question in many cities, including some of the second class. The Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, for example, is carrying on a careful study of the housing conditions in that city, and the effort for better dwellings for the common people is an important part of the general civic improvement movement which is taking shape among American municipalities. A recent house study was made in Chicago through voluntary effort half a dozen years ago, and the subject is being again inquired into here. Results thus far indicate that while playing and sidewalk conditions have materially improved in the meantime, the bad housing conditions themselves have been aggravated rather than bettered. The Washington story will naturally receive special attention because of its connection with the national capital. It is proper, Washington should be a model city in its physical arrangements, and other American towns will welcome the establishment there of standards regarding such arrangements.

Here is the statement of a truth which should appeal to every member of Congress whenever the subject of District legislation is broached. The fact that the whole country watches the federal city cannot be too often or too pointedly brought to the attention of the national legislators. The city is regarded as a model for the community, either actually or potentially. We who live here know its possibilities and its shortcomings. We realize that if it is to be in fact the actual inspiration to better conditions throughout the country which it should long ago have become, Congress must adopt a different attitude toward it in all matters of law-making.

Washington should long since have been given a satisfactory system of sanitary laws to enable or to compel the poorer classes to live in comparatively healthful surroundings. It should have been given a child labor law, to prevent the employment of the little ones during the years of their mental and physical growth and at the time of their greatest moral susceptibility. It should be afforded many other safeguards against fraud and crime and against the accumulation of the needs results now in a demand upon Congress for many laws. The District calendar is congested as seldom before, because not only of the lack of action in the past, but because of the awakening of the people to the need and the enlisting of the assistance of public-spirited residents of other cities.

What Washington does in the way of municipal management is closely watched. Its mistakes are magnified and its successes are praised in proportion to its prominence as the seat of government. The country has awakened to the fact that here exists a municipality suited to the highest development of administrative aids to good citizenship, and it is gratifying to know that the progress of the long-suffering Washington is being effectively supplemented by the impatience of the patriotic citizens of the states who feel the shame of continued neglect of the federal city.

The Restored Franklin Portrait.

The portrait of Benjamin Franklin which Earl Grey is restoring to the United States, and which will arrive in a few days, depicts him, we are told, "at an earlier period of his life than the conventional pictures show him." Would it not be a good thing to have the general public made familiar with this picture through the medium of the press? The American world of today knows only the likeness of the venerable sage. Let us get a look at him when he was a younger man—at a time when there was fire in his eye and light in his face.

Franklin represents so much wisdom and such achievement that the physical aspect of the sage goes very well with his reputation. But he was a wise man even in his young days and middle days, and had the reddish of red blood in his veins. If this picture with so interesting a history is good, it should show us a countenance both of strength and charm, with quiet resolution and reserve in plenty.

A distinguished admirer of William Cullen Bryant thought that the latter's poetry suffered from association with the popular picture of the author, which represents a patriarch. He declared, for example, that such pieces as "The Death of the Flowers," and "Lines to a Water-fowl," which were written before Bryant reached old age, were weighted down by the flowing white beard and the bald pate. For his own part he wanted to see a copy of those verses, reflective as they are, with the author shown in middle life, or younger, when, as he asserted, the poetic expression in the countenance is at its height.

Franklin's fate, as already stated, has been the reverse of this. He was so wise at all times and about so many things, that, in consulting his works, or thinking about the man, one expects a venerable countenance of great benignity. And that we have had been raised on. But as he was always wise, even in the days of his vigor and assertion, it would at least be interesting to see him before the wrinkles came and the extreme soberness of the years had settled on his face. It is not difficult to imagine how clever a letter, if he could know of this episode, Franklin would indite to Earl Grey for the latter's thoughtfulness, which is of international note.

Witte has evidently made up his mind that there must be a resignation, even if he has to provide it himself.

Whitney of Massachusetts.

There is something taking in the suggestion of Henry M. Whitney for the democratic nomination for governor of Massachusetts this year. He represents his party on the tariff question, and has the courage of his convictions. He talked revision to his home people last year, and is talking free trade to the people of Maine now. Such a man commands attention. He helps to make and to maintain issues. Both followers and opponents know where to find him. He does not conceal himself in a cloud of language.

Mr. Whitney, like Mr. Douglas, is a man of business, and argues his case from the business viewpoint. Mr. Douglas, it is true, won his race two years ago partly because of the personal unpopularity then of his republican opponent. Still, the fact that he was a man of everyday affairs, who had made his way to the front in the business world and knew business sentiment, had secured him his nomination and was

a potent factor in his campaign. A powerful organization, which carried Roosevelt and Fairbanks through with ease, could not carry the republican candidate for governor through. Mr. Douglas sent his opponent to grass.

The situation this year is in several particulars different from the situation of that year. This is an off year, and Curtis Guild, who is certain of renomination, is a man of force with a good record in the governor's chair. If Mr. Whitney runs against him the campaign will be waged purely on the strength of the issue involved, and his triumph would be in no sense personal.

But therein lies the value of the proposed nomination of Mr. Whitney. The tariff is the issue of the day. It is the one issue of national importance certain to survive this session of Congress for immediate use. It overshadows every other issue in Massachusetts, national or local. The republicans of the state are divided on it, and a local campaign pitched on it would take on a national interest and value. The congressional races would be more or less affected by it, and the battle all along the line be the more vigorously conducted.

If Massachusetts wants a full and free up-to-date tariff discussion, free hides and all, here would appear to be her best chance to get it. Mr. Whitney knows his subject, and can afford a flyer in politics.

The Indiana Republicans.

The Indiana republicans had but one problem of difficulty, and are to be congratulated on the way in which they have solved that. It was an easy matter to speak in indorsement of the party's request for the President's request and striking personality, and of course in praise of Mr. Fairbanks and the home delegation in the two houses of Congress. Indiana is ably represented here, and exerts a conspicuous influence on national affairs. All of that was a platform in itself, sure to produce unanimous consent.

The matters of contest were the personality and the administration of Gov. Hanly, who has been vigilant in the detection of wrongdoing on the part of certain public officials, and resolute in the execution of the laws. He has not only uncovered but punished delinquents, and some of them have been men of weight in the state. It required said both to enter upon and to carry out such a policy. But he had it, and has exhibited it. As one evil had it, and has exhibited it. As one evil had it, and has exhibited it.

An outcry arose. It always follows vigorous proceedings of that kind. The personal friends of the disgraced officials—not themselves bad men, but influenced by sympathy—accused the governor of playing the demagogue and appealing to the galleries, and they insisted on the indorsement of the party by the party in convention would alienate many voters and cost the party the election.

This, after a spirited discussion, has been met by a plank in the platform which is a complete triumph for the governor, and which should strengthen rather than weaken his party in the campaign. We have heard enough and to spare of mere denunciation of graft and grafters. What is really desired and will be useful is a course of action. Gov. Hanly has inaugurated this in Indiana, with good results, and it is for the voters to uphold him in the work. Had the convention turned him down, not only would his party have been injured, but, not unlikely, the interests of Mr. Fairbanks been impaired in the national field. As it is, all three—Gov. Hanly, the republican party of Indiana and Mr. Fairbanks—have been benefited.

That Jefferson Dinner.

If Charles F. Murphy and Bourke Cockran absent themselves from the Jefferson dinner in New York Monday night the occasion will not be complete. There will or course be no lack of members and no lack of oratory, but harmony is the thing, and these two absentees will show the lack of that. Whose the blame? That depends on the point of view. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Cockran are sufficiently Jeffersonian to eat a dinner awarded to the great Virginian's memory. But just now they are choice about their company. Mayor McClellan fails to pass muster. Why should he be accepted as an authority on "Democracy" after turning his back on the local organization and soliciting praise and support from the outside? But the mayor is on the card for a speech, is in Princeton for consultation with his mentor, Mr. Cleveland, and that feature of the program cannot be changed.

It is now said that Gen. Kodama, who succeeds Marshal Oyama, was the brains of the army during the war against Russia. Japan has evidently been able to eliminate the customary military jealousies from its newly-adopted civilization.

Mr. Knox can be depended on to see that the courts are not lighted and Mr. Butler may be relied on to an equal extent to protect the legislative dignity of Congress. In the meantime the railways remain interesting spectators.

Nobody has had the temerity to approach Speaker Cannon with a scheme for compensating a congressman according to his individual earning capacity.

The importance which Senator Spooner attaches to a minority opinion may be regarded by several members of the Supreme Court as a mark of excellent taste.

Some of the coal operators regard their big surplus stock of material ready for shipment as a better argument than any the miners can bring forward.

The calamity at Naples appears to be less the fault of Vesuvius than of the building inspectors.

Weapons and Crime.

The subject of pistol carrying and its dangers is being earnestly discussed by the newspapers of the country, with a general trend of opinion toward the conclusion that something must be done to check the growing evil. Reports of crimes of violence, in which pistols figure, are being printed in such a close succession that the mind of the average reader is daily shocked by the thought that human life is rated now more cheaply than ever since the era of so-called civilization began. There is absolutely nothing to prevent a jealous-madened man or woman from procuring a weapon, or a drunken wretch from arming himself to wreak vengeance. After the crime the police occasionally ascertain where the "gun" was bought, and that ends all inquiry.

The other day Representative William S. Bennett, of New York City, was quoted by the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle on the subject of concealed weapons. He said: "I have never seen the time that I found it necessary for the purpose of protection to carry even a jackknife. I have never known of a man in the circle of my acquaintance that carried a weapon, except my friends on the police force. I will walk through any street in New York at any hour of the day or night, and so long as I pay attention to my own business I will be in safety."

The Democrat and Chronicle approved this statement and expressed the belief that the police should periodically search "some of our immigrants" for weapons, especially knives. Thereupon the Utica Observer entered a protest against this method of treating the evil, on the ground of its impracticability, saying:

"One of the difficulties of enforcing the law against the carrying of concealed weapons is due to the fact that possession of them is exceedingly difficult of proof until the weapon is produced for use or until the commission of some other offense gives the police a legal right of search. Search under other circumstances is an invasion of a man's constitutional rights and would not be supported in the courts. Could this provision of law be got around safely many a man suspected of violating the law might have been convicted."

While we are waiting for a better method to eliminate by legal confiscation the weapons already uselessly and dangerously in possession of the people there is a practicable method available to check the evil by limiting the opportunity to procure and carry more weapons. The Star has often broached the suggestion. It proposes that henceforth, according to law, no dealer shall be allowed, under severe penalty, to sell a pistol or other deadly weapon to any purchaser unless the latter presents an order from the court certifying that it has granted his application on the acceptance of proof of a reasonable and legitimate need. If this law were enacted and enforced in all the states, as well as in the District of Columbia, there would soon be fewer crimes of violence, fewer wife murders, fewer bar room homicides, less wretchedness and terrorism.

Maxim Gorky began to indulge in eulogies of America as soon as he came in sight of New York. The novelist should not be allowed to fall into the too frequent error of supposing that New York is America.

Arthur Nikisch wants more for conducting the Boston Symphony Orchestra than he could earn in Europe. America may not be headquarters for genuine musical appreciation, but it has the price.

By holding sunspots responsible for volcanic disturbances, scientists bring us back to the old and constantly applied question, "What are we going to do about it?"

It is not unreasonable to assume that W. J. Bryan is longing to lay down the fountain pen and take up the megaphone again.

The terror in the neighborhood of Naples is likely to augment this country's quota of Black Hand and Mafia immigration.

SHOOTING STARS.

Complicity. "Which do you prefer, a lock or sea-level canal?"

"I don't know," answered the genially languid citizen. "Either makes a good topic of conversation."

Compensation. "Do you intend to let your enemies have the last word?" "Certainly," answered Mr. Dustin Stax. "I got his last dollar, and he ought to have some sort of compensation."

The Era of Investigation. Troubles daily seem to thicken. Life's a melancholy song. Half the world is always kicking. 'Cause the other half does wrong.

"When I hear a man braggin' 'bout beatin' de races," said Uncle Eben, "I looks fust trouble. 'Easy money' is allus de fust chapter of a hard luck story."

Exercise. "You consider walking the best exercise?" "It used to be," answered the physician, "until the necessity of dodging street cars and automobiles made it so violent."

Enthusiasm. I know it is great, Though I don't understand What the orators state. But I know it is great, And our national fate Some one holds in his hand. I know it is great, But I don't understand.

Yet I always hooray When his speeches I hear. If the man won't my way I feel bound to hooray. Though the things he may say Are not thoroughly clear, Still I always hooray When his speeches I hear.

Allen Electors. Of 2,000 immigrants landed in Philadelphia on Monday only 200 could speak English. The others were Russians, Italians, Macedonians, Syrians, Poles, Lithuanians, Scandinavians, and a sprinkling of other nationalities. If the men among the 1,800 continentals were to settle in Nebraska they would be able to vote by declaring their intention to become citizens thirty days before election. Michigan, Missouri, Arkansas and several other states also allow aliens to vote. It is conceivable that foreigners unable to speak English or to understand what they were voting for might decide a presidential election. The great preponderance of non-English-speaking immigrants now coming to our shores will be a danger as long as the lawmakers of such states neglect to revise the suffrage qualifications.

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The effect is new and unusually attractive in that this style of embossing harmonizes beautifully with the delicate shades of Society paper.

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A SUIT SALE—Just in Time for Easter. We just bought three lots of Spring Suits—three exceptional bargains—they go on sale tomorrow. Any alterations that may be necessary will be made so that you can have the garment in time for Easter. We have tripled our workforce to assure promptness.

\$8.95. \$12.95. \$16.95.

Worth \$15. In this first lot of this purchase are Eton and Pony Suits, in five pretty shades of gray. The Etons have silk inlaid collars and vests, and are finished with brass and buttons. The Pony styles have strap seams and are made of collared. These suits are every one of them worth \$15—sale price tomorrow, \$9.95.

Worth \$20. American Woolen Mills Broadcloth, Cheviot, Chiffon Panama, Home-spun, Fancy Mixtures and Scotch Suitings. Old rose, grays, green, Alice and navy blue, red and black. Eton styles. Pony jacket and coat styles. Short, medium and long sleeves. Silk braid and taffeta-trimmed effects, silk and satin lined. Worth \$20—at \$12.95.

Worth \$25. Broadcloth, Panama, English Tweed and Scotch Mixture Suits, in black, blue, plum, red, old rose, grays, checks and greens. Eton and Pony styles. Some silk-trimmed, some braid-trimmed—elbow and long sleeves. Taffeta and silk-lined. Circular skirts, pleats front and back, folds on bottom. Worth \$25—sale price, \$16.95.

\$2.75. \$3.75. \$4.75. \$4.95.

\$1.50 to \$3 American Lady Corsets, 69c. We've secured a lot of seconds in American Lady Corsets—all this season's latest models, including straight fronts, lingerie effects, batiste and coutil corsets. The imperfections are barely noticeable. Corsets that sell for \$1.50 to \$3 in this sale at 69c.

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White Enamelled Curtain Poles, with the new silver-dished "pear-shaped" knobs, including fixtures; this set is worth 25c; we will sell you com- 9c. The very best grade of Women's Muslin Gowns; yokes of fine tucks, cambric ruffs in neck and sleeves. All 12 1/2c. Sizes, Worth 60c, each. G. T. P.

50 dozen Women's Long Skirts, with deep ruffles, trimmed with lace. 29c. Sold at 50c. G. T. P.

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Odds and ends of W. B. and R. & G. Corsets, this season's latest models. White, batiste and coutil; straight front, deep hips and shawl length models. Sold up to \$2.00. 59c. G. T. P.

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Decorated Chocolate Eggs—Panama Eggs, made from choice cream and cocoanut and strictly pure. Easter Eggs, with names, from 5c. to 25c.

All choice and pure Candies made fresh every day. Lowney's Chocolates and Bonbons.

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